

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Sabotage to the Steamer KNIN and Escape of its Captain and Pilot

PLACE ACQUIRED

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1. The steamer KNIN, of the regular passenger line Rijeka-Split, was stranded and wrecked against a cave near the Island of Cres on 30 November 1950. Two members of the crew perished in the wreckage. All passengers were rescued.

2. The official announcement reports that the KNIN was stranded because of poor visibility and a heavy storm in the Kvarnerski Gulf, and that the captain and pilot were immediately called to testify in Rijeka. According to the testimony of witnesses, however, the main pilot and the captain sabotaged the vessel. Both men are alleged to have disappeared with the ship's safe which reportedly contained an unspecified sum of foreign currency destined for a diplomat in Split. Police forces from Cres pursued the escapees for forty-eight hours but were unsuccessful. It is supposed that the captain and pilot planned, beforehand, the whole operation, and that some vessel awaited them near the scene of the wreckage.

3. Two tugboats of the Brodospas (salvage agency) arrived on the scene on the night of November 30. After some repairs the KNIN was to be transported to Rijeka about 10 December.

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